

Johnson Receives Bipartisan Support

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Lyndon B. Johnson assumed the burdens of the presidency Friday night and immediately won a pledge of bipartisan cooperation from congressional leaders in the dark days following President Kennedy's assassination.

The new President, who took over with an appeal for the help of God and the American people, held a mid-evening meeting with House and Senate leaders of both parties after conferring with several top administration officials.

In his first public statement after becoming President, Johnson promised the nation to "do my best."

Johnson, only a few cars back when an assassin's bullet felled his predecessor in a Dallas motorcade, held the conference almost immediately after he arrived back in the capital on the plane which also returned President Kennedy's body.

AFTER THE MEETING with congressional leaders, the White House issued a brief statement saying that the new President had asked Democratic and Republican officials of the House and Senate for their "united support in the face of the tragedy that has befallen our country."

"He said that it is more essential than ever before that this country be united," the statement said.

DA Predicts Insanity Plea By Oswald

Prosecutors said Friday they anticipate Lee H. Oswald will plead insanity if he stands trial on charges of murdering President Kennedy.

"This is the type of case where you can expect the defense to enter an insanity plea," Dist. Atty. Henry Wade observed.

As a result, prosecutors are expected to arrange for psychiatrists to examine the avowed Marxist who defected to Russia and then returned to the United States.

Evidence that Oswald fled the scene will provide Wade with a major jury argument.

The legal test of sanity under Texas criminal laws is whether the defendant "can distinguish between right and wrong and is aware of the nature and consequences of his acts."

Wade can argue that, since Oswald fled, it is obvious he knew the nature of his acts.

Texas does not have a law which refers specifically to the murder of the President. But general murder laws would apply.

Prosecutors said a murder charge would state simply that the killer "did then and there, with malice aforethought, kill John F. Kennedy by shooting him with a gun."

All in a Day's Work

NOVATO, Calif. (AP) — Patrolman Joseph Fitzgerald got action soon after he joined the police department. In one day the rookie solved three car thefts, a hardware store burglary, a ranch burglary and a license plate theft. He also prevented a third burglary, arrested three juveniles and recovered three stolen cars.



—Dallas News Staff Photo by Tom C. Dillard.

TEXAS SENIOR SENATOR

Sen. Ralph Yarborough gestures as he briefed reporters outside the emergency entrance to Parkland Hospital, shortly before he learned President Kennedy had died. The time was about 1 p.m.



In Dallas motorcade from left: John F. Kennedy, Mrs. Kennedy, Gov. John Connally, Mrs. Connally and unidentified man.

SEES SEVERAL GUILTY

Wade Calls Killing A 'Dastardly Act'

Dist. Atty. Henry Wade said Friday the electric chair is "too good" for the killers of President Kennedy.

"This is the most dastardly act I've ever heard about," Wade said. "The electric chair is too good for the killers."

Wade said preliminary reports indicated more than one person was involved in the shooting which brought death to the President and left Gov. John Connally wounded.

"Everyone who participated in this crime — anyone who helped plan it or who furnished a weapon knowing the purposes for which it was intended — is guilty of murder under Texas law. They should all go to the electric chair."

Wade said the killers could stand trial in either state courts or federal courts here — or possibly in both.

If given the death penalty on murder charges in either state or federal courts, the killers would die in the electric chair at Huntsville.

Wade, a former roommate and close personal friend of Gov. Connally, was at the Dallas Trade Mart, awaiting the arrival of the Kennedy motorcade, when a News reporter told him of the shooting.

Pontiff Supports Liberal Bishops

VATICAN CITY (UPI) — Pope Paul VI has intervened in the Ecumenical Council in support of liberal bishops who feel their efforts to attain church reform are being stymied by a small minority of conservatives entrenched in key Council offices.

He ordered the election of additional members to the Theological Commission, headed by conservative leader Alfredo Cardinal Ottaviani, and other commissions which are responsible for preparing documents for the council fathers to vote on.

Vatican officials said the effect of the move will be to make the commissions more truly representative of the council's liberal majority, and more responsible to its will.

Border Closed Several Hours

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Mexico-United States border was reopened Friday night after being closed several hours in a joint move by both governments.

A Mexican government spokesman said the border was closed as a security measure after the slaying of President Kennedy.

He said the governments had decided to reopen the border in order not to further obstruct the heavy flow of travelers between the two countries. But a close check will be kept on arrivals at the border, he said.

1947 LAW SET UP ORDER FOR PRESIDENT SUCCESSION

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress in 1947 established by law this order of succession to the presidency:

The Vice-President, a post now vacant with the elevation of Lyndon B. Johnson to the presidency.

Speaker of the House of Representatives, now John W. McCormack of Massachusetts.

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate, now Sen. Carl Hayden of Arizona.

Members of the cabinet in this order: Secretary of State, Dean Rusk of New York; Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara of Michigan; Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy of Massachusetts; Postmaster General John A. Gronouski of Wisconsin; Secretary of the Interior, Stewart L. Udall of Arizona; Secretary of Agriculture, Orville L. Freeman of Minnesota; Secretary of Commerce, Luther H. Hodges of North Carolina, and Secretary of Labor, W. Willard Wirtz of Illinois.

Congress has not yet added the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to the line of succession. The department was created after enactment of the 1947 law. The present secretary is Anthony J. Celebrezze of Ohio.

STORAGE FLOOR

Kennedy Killer Hid In Area Used Little

President Kennedy's killer could have been holed up in that sixth story hideaway for as long as four days without anyone bothering him, the president of Texas School Book Depository said Friday night.

Police found remains of a chicken near the southeast corner window from which the assassin apparently fired.

They also found three expended shells lying alongside the three cases of books that the killer apparently had used to steady his aim.

Jack C. Cason, president of the depository, said the sixth floor was used solely as a "dead storage" area.

It was stacked about eight feet high with books.

Cason, who left the scene about 30 minutes before the president's caravan rode down Main Street, a block away, said the firm often had difficulty finding employees who had fallen asleep amidst the stacks of books.

"Sometimes it will be three or four days without anybody going up to the sixth floor to get anything," Cason said.

He said the "dead storage" ward in the rear seat of the limousine, Mrs. Kennedy instinctively fell to the floor to hold him.

She stroked his brow. At the hospital, she helped carry him onto a litter brought out of the emergency ward.

Mrs. Kennedy walked into the hospital at the side of her dying husband.

Even in sorrow she was a striking figure in her bright pink wool suit and pink pillbox hat over her dark hair.

She did not speak. Her husband died as she waited outside the room where he lay inside, surgeons were taking desperate measures.

AS HER HUSBAND toppled forward to Washington to her children, Caroline, 6, and little John Jr. who will be 3 next week.

This was Mrs. Kennedy's first political tour with her husband since the 1960 campaign and the death of their baby Patrick last August.

Grieving then as now, she canceled public appearances for the remainder of the year. But after a trip to Greece, she decided to accompany her husband to Texas for a 2-day tour.

Death of Kennedy Mourned by Texans

Washington Bureau of The News WASHINGTON — Texans in Washington expressed shock and sorrow at news of the President's death Friday.

Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark said, "The President's untimely passing at the hands of a cowardly assassin is a great tragedy to America and to the world. Mrs. Clark and I deeply mourn his loss."

Sen. John G. Tower said, "There are no words to express my shock and dismay." He referred to the President's assassination as "a terrible tragedy that has been visited upon our land."

Tower continued, "My heart goes out to the President's family and to all our beloved land in this time of national shame."

"OUR REPUBLIC has survived these crises before, in other places and in other times. The knowledge that it will also survive this crisis, however, does not lessen our remorse that such a blow should be struck to our nation," the Tower statement ended.

Rep. Bruce Alger in a prepared statement, said, "No words can express our deep sorrow in this tragic hour. God alone can sustain us in our loss."

"We must call upon our inner strength to keep cool heads and preserve our country and our people," the Dallas congressman added.

Joe Pool, representative-at-large from Dallas, said, "There is agony in the hearts of all the people of our land. The agony in the hearts of the people of Dallas is stirred with revulsion. An animal lives among us in hideous madness."

All extended sympathies to Mrs. Kennedy, the two children and the family of the late President.

REP. ED FOREMAN of Odessa commented, "A most incredible and shocking incident indeed." A Houstonian Lawrence J. O'Connor, a 1961 presidential appointee to the Federal Power Commission, called Kennedy's death "a terrible tragedy."

Ramsey Clark, assistant attorney general and highest ranking

executive appointee from Texas, went to Attorney General Robert Kennedy's office shortly after the shooting was announced. His secretary said he was very upset.

All the Texas congressional leaders expressed concern for Gov. John Connally.

"My prayers are also with the family of our governor, that he might soon recover from this cowardly attack and lead our state as he has ably done," Tower said.

Alger said, "We pray also for the speedy recovery of the governor." Pool added, "our prayers are with our governor."

Medal of Honor Urged for JFK LOS ANGELES, Calif. (AP)—Rep. James Roosevelt, D-Calif., said Friday he will propose that the Congressional Medal of Honor be awarded posthumously to the late President Kennedy.

Roosevelt, son of another president who died in office, told Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn by telephone from Washington that he will introduce a joint resolution "in the name of the people of the United States."

Hahn had suggested the action, saying, "Certainly, in the battle of peace and human understanding, President John F. Kennedy earned his medal."

The medal of honor is the nation's highest award for heroism. Roosevelt's father, Franklin D. Roosevelt, died in 1945.

Mrs. Kennedy's Composure Never Gave Way

By PRESTON MCGRAW

United Press International Blood spattered her stocking, unnoticed. She clung to her husband and helped to lift him tenderly to a stretcher.

She watched her husband's Vice-President take the oath of office as chief executive and she embraced him.

Jacqueline Kennedy somehow managed to maintain her composure. She seemed almost in a state of shock. Tears came later.

Just minutes before a bullet crashed into her husband's head, she had told him, "You can't say Dallas wasn't friendly to you."

HER THOUGHT was to return

to Washington to her children, Caroline, 6, and little John Jr. who will be 3 next week.

This was Mrs. Kennedy's first political tour with her husband since the 1960 campaign and the death of their baby Patrick last August.

Grieving then as now, she canceled public appearances for the remainder of the year. But after a trip to Greece, she decided to accompany her husband to Texas for a 2-day tour.

She shook hands, smiled and drew bravos from crowds in San Antonio, Houston, Fort Worth and —along the motorcade route where the assassin waited—in Dallas.

JOHNSON EMBRACED her, then his wife Lady Bird, and sorrowing Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, the President's secretary.

Some of those present in the forward compartment of the plane said the tears came then.

Only Thursday night, speaking in fluent Spanish to a Latin-American audience in Houston, she had praised the great State of Texas. She had seemed pleased with her reception and with the welcome for her husband.

Someone thrust a bunch of yellow roses in her hands at Dallas Love Field when she stepped from the plane.

They stayed in the rear of the car, sitting on the floor of the back seat, outside the hospital where her husband died.